Violation of Foreign Exchange Regulations

4466. SHRI SANJAY DALMIA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of a case of the gross violation of Foreign Exchange Regulations committed by one of the owners of a National Newspaper, also serving on the Board of Reserve Bank of India (RBI) way back in 1987 ;

(b) whether it is a fact that the file containing relevant records pointing to establishment of the offence was sent by the Delhi Zonal Office to the Directorate of Enforcement, Headquarters, following a probe, when the matter was reported in the Statesman in 1987 and it has been hushed up and the file is gathering dust in the Headquarters ;

(c) if so, whether Government would trace the file and reopen the case for the sake of justice; and

(d) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY) : (a) and (b) The Directorate of Enforcement did receive a complaint containing allegations of FERA violations by Shri A. K. Jain of M/s. Sahu Jain Group/ Benett Coleman & Co. Investigations in respect of one of the allegations was closed due to lack of evidence, while investigation in respect of the other allegation is in progress.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Inflation and Price Mechanism

4467. SHRI BISHAMBHAR NATH PANDE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is fact that the inflation rate which was below 7 per cent has gone up to 9 per cent in the middle of March, 1994 and it is absolutely necessary for the Government to control the price mechanism in the country ; and

(b) what steps the Government are taking to bring down the inflation trend and also controlling the price rise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY): (a) Yes, Sir. The annual rate of inflation remained around 7 per cent upto middle of August, 1993 and rose to over 9 per cent from 8th January, 1994 reaching 9.87% by 19th March, 1994.

(b) Steps taken by the Government for moderating the rise in prices have been in the direction of augmenting supplies of essential commodities through increased allocation in PDS, open market sales of wheat and rice by FCI, and import of essential commodities such as sugar and edible oils.

Foreign Media Magnates Visit to India

4468. Will the Minister of INFORMATION and BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the number of foreign media magnates who came to India during the last one year, as on date ;

(b) the purpose of their visits ;

(c) the gist of their talks with leaders of the country ; and

(d) the reaction of Government to their talks ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO) : (a) and (b) Details of such visits are not maintained since they are generally of private nature.

(c) and (d) Does not arise.

Guidelines of Advertisements on Doordarshan

4469. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA : Will the Minister of INFORMATION and BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the guidelines Government have issued for clearing of advertisements on Doordarshan ;

(b) cases of violation of the guidelines, if any, during the last one year ; and

(c) whether any fresh guidelines have been issued and if so, the details thereof ?